

This new equipment is more than simply state-of-the-art. It is state-of-the-future. The new melt shop will be tightly closed, and enable the plant to capture 100 percent of all air emissions. Advanced technologies will minimize the release of carbon monoxide and eliminate dust. All water-cooled furnace parts will have temperature sensors and flow meters to detect leaks.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, this is not an expansion for its own sake. It is an expansion for the sake of safety, the environment and the team of dedicated employees who work at Nucor-Jewett. I also want to point out that a centerpiece of this modernization is a new 90-ton electric arc furnace, or EAF. This too, stands as testimony of Nucor's commitment to performing in the most responsible possible manner.

The EAF process is one of the most efficient, effective technologies in manufacturing today. It is less expensive and capital intensive than traditional steel making, which has helped Nucor become one of the lowest-cost producers in the world. But just as important, it requires fewer raw materials and less energy.

The facts are staggering. For every ton of steel produced, the EAF process saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone. Annually, it saves enough energy to electrically power the city of Los Angeles for eight years. On top of that, it also reduces air and water emissions, and greenhouse gases that are associated with conventional steelmaking.

This kind of environmental responsibility is nothing new to Nucor. The company, which operates 30 facilities in 14 states—including four in Texas—is the largest producer of recycled steel in the world. It takes scrap metal that would otherwise be clogging landfills or tossed in fields or along roadsides and turns it into something of value that can be used in automobiles, farm machinery, metal buildings, furniture and recreational equipment.

But this modernization takes that commitment to a whole new level. As I said at the outset of my remarks, it demonstrates that economic growth and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, profit and prosperity can and should co-exist with efforts to preserve our natural resources.

In Texas, we have the good sense to understand this. Nucor's ability to undertake such a significant modernization program was in part due to voter approval of a constitutional amendment in 1993 that provides tax exemptions on property used for pollution control. The amendment enabled companies to invest in environmental technologies without fear of seeing their property taxes increase. So we were able to protect the environment, strengthen our business climate and hold the line on taxes.

The success of Nucor-Jewett shows quite clearly that the wisdom Texans exhibited in 1993 continues to pay off today. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Nucor Steel Bar Mill Group, its employees and management for helping to make Texas a land of greater environmental and economic opportunity.

TAIWANESE REFERENDUM

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker Taiwan and the United States have a long and fruitful relationship. Taiwan's democracy is modeled after ours and its economic prosperity depends much on the mutual trade between Taiwan and the United States. Taiwan's leaders were mostly educated in the United States and Taiwan has nearly 30,000 students studying in America colleges and their tourists' number one overseas destination is the United States.

So despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations, Taiwan is a close ally of our government. It has supported our global war against terrorism and has pledged humanitarian assistance to postwar Iraq.

On the other hand, we have the Taiwan Relations Act, a law of the land which is designed to provide Taiwan with adequate weapons to protect itself against invasion from China. The U.S. policy on Taiwan-China relations is to maintain the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan's planned March 20 referendum, contrary to what Chinese leaders have said about it, is designed to maintain the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. It is not to provoke Chinese leaders. It merely asks Taiwan voters whether their government should buy more anti-missile weapons if China refuses to withdraw its 496 missiles targeted at Taiwan and whether their government should open up talks with China about other issues.

I feel the 23 million people of Taiwan have a right to hold such a referendum. We mustn't allow China to intimidate Taiwan with talks of overtaking Taiwan by force and other verbal threats.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT E. WEST UPON RETIREMENT FROM YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Robert E. West, who has recently retired from the position of Executive Director to the Neptune Township Authority.

Robert E. West was born in New York, and moved to Neptune, NJ at an early age. After graduating as valedictorian of his high school class, and finishing his education at Monmouth Junior College, he began work as an insurance agent in New York, eventually moving to the prestigious North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company. In addition to selling insurance, Mr. West worked with Haso Maintenance Inc., working to dispatch taxis to the city's Bronx borough.

After 15 years working in the private sector, Mr. West's heart wished to stay in the place that he had resided since childhood, and began what would be a storied career in the

Neptune Township Housing Authority. From humble beginnings as a rent collector, Robert West rose through the ranks of the Authority to the prestigious position of Executive Director.

Mr. West's distinguished period of public service included affiliations to the Neptune Lions Club, Jersey Shore Medical Center and stints as the President of the Neptune Board of Education, who's most notable contribution was to save the school marching band through personal endeavors and vigorous fundraising efforts.

Under Mr. West's tenure as Executive Director, the Neptune Housing Authority has experienced growth unlike anything that has ever seen. Director West implemented programs to improve the quality of life for tenants, improve the quality of the residences in which they resided, and helped to make the administrative offices of the NTHA handicap accessible. For his work, the United States Housing and Urban Development Association awarded Mr. West several outstanding achievement awards.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my dearest gratitude to Mr. West for his indelible service to the community in which he lived. A career such as his truly merits praise, and I too ask, that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Robert E. West for a storied career that has touched the lives of all those whom he had served.

HONORING MURIEL JOHNSON

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a woman with a long and impressive list of contributions to the County of Sacramento. To say that Muriel Johnson is an important and treasured member of our community would only begin to skim the surface of the extraordinary service that she has given our communities over her 41 years as a Sacramento resident. Muriel, who is currently in the last year of a successful 12-year stint as a Sacramento County Supervisor, has deservedly been acknowledged by the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce as the recipient of the 2003 Sacramentan of the Year Award. As her friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate Muriel's illustrious career, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of the Capital Region's most accomplished and widely respected leaders.

Muriel Johnson grew up in Nebraska and earned a bachelor of music degree from the University of Nebraska. Before beginning her formal career in public service, Muriel contributed to the betterment of her community by serving as a high school English and music teacher. In addition, Muriel also taught "Management by Objectives" during her teaching career.

Even before she was elected to the Sacramento Board of Supervisors, Muriel was an active and instrumental member of the local volunteer community. Muriel played a vital role in raising more than \$10 million dollars for a number of community service projects, the arts, and local charity. Muriel served as President of the Crocker Art Museum Board, the

Sacramento Junior League, the Sacramento/El Dorado Medical Association Alliance, the History Museum, and the Sacramento Symphony League. She also chaired the Advisory Board for California State Historic Park, and was a Mayor's appointee on the Downtown District Study. Muriel's close involvement with the diversity of community organizations is a testament to her unyielding commitment to bring about positive changes to her community and improve the quality of life of her fellow citizens.

In 1992, Muriel Johnson was first elected to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. Muriel represents approximately 250,000 people living in the County's Third District. The Third District includes the communities of Arden/Arcade, Carmichael, Campus Commons, East Sacramento, College Glen, College Greens, East foothills Farms and a portion of North Highlands. During her tenure, Muriel has served as the Chair of the Board of Supervisors in 1995 and 1999.

In addition to her duties as County Supervisor, Muriel has also served admirably as the Chair, President and Board Member of the following organizations since first being elected as supervisor: Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento Public Library Authority, California State Association of Counties, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, Cable Commission, Sacramento Regional Sanitation District, Sacramento Regional Transit, Sacramento Air Quality Management District, and California's Elected Women's Association of Education and Research.

In recognition of her dedication to public service, Muriel is the rightful recipient of a number of community service awards including: the California Medical Association Alliance 1999 Member of the Year, the National Philanthropy Day Award for Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser, the first E.A. Combatalade Community Service Award, Soroptimist Woman of the Year, the 1993 Business Volunteers for the Arts Award for Individual Service, the Women's Transportation Seminar 2002 Woman of the Year Award, the 2003 Shots for Tots Immunization Registry, and the 2003 American Society for Public Administration's Excellence in Public Arts Award.

Throughout her term as County Supervisor, Muriel Johnson has remained a steadfast supporter of neighborhood preservation, more efficient transportation, better air quality, health and welfare issues, sound economic development, better schools for our children and flood control. There is no doubt that every one of Muriel's constituents has benefited in one way or another as a result of her hard work, dedication, and vision.

Mr. Speaker, as Muriel's friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate her great career and acknowledgement as Sacramentan of the Year, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most respected leaders. Muriel's continuous leadership is a true testament to public service. Although her career in public service may soon be over, her involvement in community service is, fortunate for us, far from over. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Muriel Johnson continued success in all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JOY DEFENBAUGH, RIVERSIDE CITY COUNCIL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, CA are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Joy Defenbaugh is one of these individuals.

Joy has represented Ward 3 of the city of Riverside for 12 years and has continually worked for the interests of her constituency. Her area of representation includes the Magnolia Center and the Riverside Municipal Airport.

Joy served as chair of the Development Committee and served on the Finance and Government Affairs Committees. She is a member and past chair of the March Joint Powers Commission for the reuse of March Air Reserve Base. Her commitment to the improvement of the city of Riverside has been steadfast.

Early in her political career, Joy recognized the diversity and cultural differences within the community. At the direction of Colin Powell, Joy spearheaded the Common Ground Task Force which brought different groups of people in the community together regardless of ethnic background and cultural differences in order to relieve tension within the community.

In 1998, a former Riverside City employee broke into the Riverside City Council Chamber during a meeting and seriously injured several people. Despite this incident, Joy persevered and continued public service.

Joy's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, CA. She has had a commitment to the economic growth and has demonstrated leadership by recognizing an immediate need for community initiatives such as railroad crossings and the Vision for Today and Tomorrow. Her patriotic spirit for military and country is admirable. She has been the heart and soul of many community initiatives and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she retires.

CELEBRATING SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, in the month of January, across the country, the State of Texas and in the Fifth Congressional District, we celebrate School Board Recognition Month, to acknowledge the hard work of school board members and thank them for their valuable service in the education of our children.

During School Board Recognition Month we honor the administrators, staff, and volunteers who work to promote academic excellence and provide a safe learning environment for our students.

School board members are responsible for fulfilling one of the most important roles in our society—helping develop young men and women into the future leaders of our nation's economy, government, community, and houses of worship.

I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to all school board members in the Fifth Congressional District of Texas for their continued dedication and hard work. Their contribution to the education of our children is truly helping to shape the future of our communities and our Nation.

HONORING ALICE A. HUFFMAN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great leader, a woman of distinction, and a good friend, Alice Huffman. This month marks Alice's 30th year of leadership in her efforts for equality and justice. The ninth Congressional District salutes and thanks Alice for her tireless and spirited service.

Alice Huffman was elected president of the California State Conference of the NAACP in October 1999, where she is the first woman to hold this post. In this role, Alice leads 67 local branches, and more than 30 college chapters and youth units. With her leadership, they are continuing to fight for civil rights and equality for people of color all over California. In 2002, she was elected to the NAACP National Board of Directors, representing Region I.

Her past experience includes serving as an appointee in Governor Jerry Brown's administration where she was Chief Deputy Director of the State Parks and Recreation Department and, later his Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, a cabinet level position. Ms. Huffman has also served as the Associate Executive Director for politics for the California Teachers Association and State President of the Black American Political Association of California.

Alice is founder and president/CEO of A.C. Public Affairs, Inc., a public affairs firm that specializes in public and grass roots advocacy. She served on the Democratic National Committee as the cochair for the Site-Selection Committee for the 2004 Democratic Convention. She is also a member of the Rules Committee for the California Democratic Party. Currently, Ms. Huffman serves on the board for Capitol Focus, as well as serving on T-CAP, which is a consumer advisory panel to SBC/Pacific Bell. In addition, she serves on the "Commission for One California," a forum for diversity and understanding headed by Lieutenant Governor Bustamante. She has recently been appointed to Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson's Commission on Police Conduct.

Ms. Huffman graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with honors in Social/Cultural Anthropology. She then advanced her studies at the University of Pennsylvania, University of California, Davis, and University of